

Addition and subtraction of decimals to thousandths

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

When adding or subtracting decimals to thousandths, line up the decimal points so tenths, hundredths and thousandths match in columns.

→ $4 + 0.275$ lines up as $3.400 + 0.275$.

→ $2 - 3.485$ lines up as $7.200 - 3.485$.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

LINE UP THE POINTS AND ADD

- 1 Write 5.6 as 5.600 to match 2.340.
- 2 **Align** the decimal points in a column.
- 3 Add from the thousandths column right to left.

ANSWER KEY

a) $7.200 - 3.485$

b) $15.000 - 6.074$

c) $9.500 - 3.275$

Q1: 3.675 kg

Q2: 7.94 litres

Q3: 6.55

Q4: 4.743 kg

a) **Always** — The rule requires points directly above each other for correct place values.

b) **Never** — Last digits may be different place values so the sum or difference will be wrong.

c) **Always** — Zeros fill empty places so every column has a digit to add or subtract.

d) **Sometimes** — It depends on whether the top digit is smaller than the bottom in those places.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: 41.138

S2: 50.646

S3: 69.222

S4: 78.131

S5: 108.092